LISTING OF THE CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend claims 26-33 and 35, and add new claim 51 as follows:

Claims 1-25 (Previously canceled)

26. (Three times amended) An isolated peptide according to claim 51 consisting of 40 to 200 amino acid residues, wherein the peptide comprises an amino acid sequence having 40 or more amino acids that ~~are~~ is identical ~~or at least 80% homologous~~ to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acid sequences:

a. of SEQ ID NO 1, beginning with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 1 to 5 and ending with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 40 to 104;

b. of SEQ ID NO 2, beginning with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 1 to 5 and ending with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 40 to 104;

c. of SEQ ID NO 3, beginning with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 1 to 5 and ending with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 40 to 104;

d. of SEQ ID NO 4, beginning with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 1 to 5 and ending with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 40 to 104; and

e. of SEQ ID NO 5, beginning with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 1 to 5 and ending with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 40 to 104.

27. (Twice amended) The peptide of claim ~~26~~ 51, wherein the peptide comprises at least 40 amino acids of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO 1, beginning with the amino acid residue in any one of the positions 1 to 5 and ending with an amino acid residue in any one of positions 40 to 104, or an 80% homologous sequence.

28. (Once amended) The peptide of claim ~~26~~ 51, wherein the peptide comprises a sequence of at least 40 amino acids that is at least 85% identical to any one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, and SEQ ID NO 5.

29. (Twice amended) The peptide of claim ~~26~~ 51, wherein the peptide comprises a sequence of at least 70 amino acid residues having an amino acid sequence that is identical or at least 80% homologous to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, or SEQ ID NO 5 beginning with the amino acid residue in any one of positions 1 to 5 and ending with the amino acid residue in any one of the positions 70 to 104.

30. (Twice amended) The peptide of claim ~~26~~ 51, wherein the peptide comprises a sequence of at least 100 amino acid residues having an amino acid sequence that is identical or at least 80% homologous to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3,

SEQ ID NO 4, or SEQ ID NO 5 beginning with the amino acid residue in any one of the positions 1 to 5 and ending with the amino acid residue in any one of the positions 100 to 104.

31. (Once amended) The peptide of claim ~~26~~ 51, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 1.

32. (Once amended) The peptide of claim ~~26~~ 51, wherein the peptide comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 1.

33. (Once amended) The peptide of claim ~~26~~ 51, wherein the peptide further comprises an additional cysteine residue.

34. (Previously added) The peptide of claim 33, wherein the cysteine residue is located at one terminus of the peptide sequence.

35. (Once amended) The peptide of claim ~~26~~ 51, wherein the peptide is produced by organic synthesis.

36. (Previously added) The peptide of claim 35, wherein the organic synthesis comprises using Fmoc or Boc chemistry and an automated peptide synthesizer.

37. (Previously added) The peptide of claim 35, wherein the organic synthesis comprises using FastMoc chemistry.

38. (Previously added) The peptide of claim 35, wherein the organic synthesis is carried out under conditions such that the amino groups of the amino acids are protected with 9-fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl (Fmoc) groups and side groups are protected with the following groups: the carboxyl or hydroxyl groups, respectively, of aspartic acid, glutamic acid, serine, threonine and tyrosine with O-t-butyl; the amino or imino group, respectively, of histidine, asparagine and glutamine with trityl; the amino group of lysine with t-butyloxycarbonyl; and the imino group of arginine with PMC and wherein the activation and coupling is done in the presence of HBTU/diisopropylethylamine, and wherein the peptide is deprotected with piperidine and the final product is N-terminally acetylated using acetic anhydride.

39. (Previously added) The peptide of claim 35, wherein the organic synthesis comprises using double couplings and acetylation with acetic anhydride at cycles 1-2, 4, 10-13, 17, 27, 32, 49, 59, 66, 75-78, 84-85, 88, 96-97 and 104-105.

40. (Previously added) The peptide of claim 35, wherein the organic synthesis comprises using TentaGel S RAM Spezial as a solid phase.

41. (Previously added) The peptide of claim 35, wherein the organic synthesis comprises adding a cysteine unit to the N-terminus or the C-terminus of the peptide.

Claims 42-50 (Withdrawn)

51. (New) An isolated peptide of 40 to 200 amino acid residues, able to elicit a T-cell dependent immune response to a T-independent antigen (a polysaccharide) when conjugated to said antigen; wherein the peptide comprises an amino acid sequence having 40 or more amino acids that is identical to an amino acid sequence found in the IgA1 protease amino acid sequence of *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* or *Haemophilus influenzae*, between the N-terminal residue (position 1) or the residue in any one of the positions 2 to 5 and the residue in any one of the positions 40 to 104.

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